

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. DAYAN COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, PEACE PROSPECTS

MOSHE DAYAN, WHO IS ABOUT TO TRAVEL TO THE US, HAS TOLD CHARGE DUNNIGAN HE IS CONFIDENT THE LABOR PARTY WILL PREVAIL IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS, BUT UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT WILL BE LED BY RABIN OR PERES. IN ANY CASE, HE DOUBTS HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OR ACCEPT A POSITION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT BECAUSE HE OBJECTS STRENUOUSLY TO CERTAIN PLATFORM MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY ALLON.

REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, DAYAN SAID A SOLUTION
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COULD NOW BEST BE APPROACHED THROUGH INTERIM AGREEMENTS, RATHER THAN AT GENEVA. HE URGED THAT THE US NOT PRESSURE ISRAEL BECAUSE IT WOULD THEN BECOME LIABLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 421, 1/20.)

2. BRITISH BELIEVE SAUDI OIL REVOLT MAY FAIL

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA'S CHANCES OF WINNING ITS STRUGGLE OVER THE TWO-TIER OIL PRICING SYSTEM, AND PREDICTS THAT HMG IS LIKELY TO BE HESITANT ABOUT AGREEING TO A TOUGH LINE IN SUP-

PORT OF THE SAUDI/UAE POSITION IF IT INVOLVES ANTAGONIZING IRAN. THE BRITISH QUESTION WHETHER THE SAUDIS WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION FAST ENOUGH TO PUT REAL PRESSURE ON THE OPEC HARDLINERS, AND DO NOT BELIEVE THE OIL COMPANIES WILL BE WILLING TO SLOW DOWN PURCHASING ENOUGH TO HOLD DOWN PRICES IN THE FACE OF A WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE BRITISH COULD PROBABLY STILL BE BROUGHT ALONG ON IEA INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF THE SAUDIS IF THEY WERE:

--LOW KEY AND DID NOT CONFRONT THE IRANIANS TOO DIRECTLY;

--PRECEDED BY HIGH-LEVEL US/UK TALKS TO CLARIFY POSSIBLE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT OR MISUNDERSTANDING; AND

--ACCOMPANIED BY AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF THE SAUDI/UAE OIL UNDER DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BP AND SHELL. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 1073, 1/20.)

3. EAST GERMAN REGIME FINE-TUNES REPRESSION

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EMBASSY BERLIN BELIEVES RECENT INSTANCES OF DOMESTIC REPRESSION AND OBSTREPEROUSNESS ON THE BERLIN ISSUE INDICATE THE GDR IS TRYING TO NIP IN THE BUD A GROWING DISCONTENT BROUGHT ON PARTLY BY A SLOWDOWN IN THE ECONOMY. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY DISCOUNTS PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE REGIME IS SERIOUSLY WORRIED AND CONTEMPLATING A MAJOR CRACKDOWN. INSTEAD, IT BELIEVES THE GDR HAS ACTED CAREFULLY, SWIFTLY AND PROBABLY EFFECTIVELY TO PREVENT EITHER ECONOMIC GRUMBLING OR NASCENT POLITICAL OPPOSITION. THE GDR MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY:

--A DESIRE TO CONTAIN THE IMPACT OF THE FRG ON ITS POPULATION;

--ITS VIEW THAT THE FRG, WHICH IT BELIEVES IS IMMOBILIZED IN ITS OSTPOLITIK, NEED NOT BE ACCOMMODATED AT PRESENT; AND

--NERVOUSNESS OVER LAST SUMMER'S TURMOIL IN POLAND.

(CONFIDENTIAL) BERLIN 5115, 1/19.)

4. A COSTA RICAN EXIT FROM BELIZE IMBROGLIO?

PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD AMBASSADOR TODMAN JANUARY 18 THAT BRITAIN, BELIZE AND PANAMA HAD WORKED OUT A SCENARIO FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE FESTERING BELIZE DISPUTE WHICH HE FELT CERTAIN GUATEMALA COULD BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT. HE SAID HMG HAD AGREED TO ALLOW BRITISH TROOPS IN BELIZE TO BE REPLACED BY AN INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICAN FORCE (COMPOSED ESSENTIALLY OF PANAMA NATIONAL GUARD UNITS) AND THEN TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE. ACCORDING TO THE SCENARIO, GUATEMALA AND BELIZE WOULD THEN OPEN BORDER NEGOTIATIONS, WITH BELIZE PREPARED TO MAKE MINOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, AND BELIZE WOULD BE INVITED TO JOIN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT ODUBER'S SCENARIO HAS ACTUALLY BEEN AGREED UPON, RATHER THAN MERELY PROPOSED. (CONFIDENTIAL) SAN JOSE 268, 1/19.)

5. GUYANA: YOU CAN TRUST US THIS TIME

FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS TOLD CHARGE MCCOY JANUARY 19 THAT THE GOG WOULD NOT AGAIN ALLOW CUBAN TROOPS TO TRANSIT GUYANA EN ROUTE TO AFRICA OR ELSEWHERE. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAD LIED TO AMBASSADOR KREBS ON THAT ISSUE LAST YEAR, WILLS SAID THE US COULD BELIEVE HIM NOW. HE SAID GUYANA'S WEAKNESS AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OBLIGED IT TO FOLLOW A FOREIGN POLICY OF "PRAGMATISM," IMPLYING THAT HE DEFINED THAT AS STEERING A CAREFUL COURSE BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA. WILLS SAID PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM WAS MOVING CLOSER TO CUBA AND THE USSR IN ORDER TO ISOLATE HIS COMMUNIST OPPOSITION AT HOME, BUT WOULD NEVER ALLOW CUBA TO STATION TROOPS IN GUYANA WHERE THEY COULD THREATEN HIS REGIME. HE ALSO SAID THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN GEORGETOWN HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE CUBANS WERE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING PERU TO ATTACK CHILE BECAUSE OF CASTRO'S "PATHOLOGICAL" HATRED FOR PINOCHET.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: WILLS IS UNDOUBTEDLY APPREHENSIVE THAT BURNHAM'S POLITICALLY MOTIVATED OPENINGS TO CUBA AND THE USSR WILL ALLOW THEM TO FORCE HIM INTO POSITIONS WHICH WILL RAISE THE HACKLES OF GUYANA'S NEIGHBORS. HIS WARNING ABOUT CUBAN ADVENTURISM IN PERU SEEMS FAR-FETCHED, BUT HE TOOK PAINS TO STRESS IT. (SECRET) GEORGETOWN 138 (EXDIS), 1/20.)

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